

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 260

By Burks

A RESOLUTION to recognize Tennessee Tech University upon its selection as the host of the 2008 Mini Baja Competition.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are especially proud to recognize those racing institutions that encourage thoughtful design, diligent preparation, astute handling of technology, and a competitive drive; and

WHEREAS, Mini Baja is a collegiate off-road racing series sponsored by the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE); college teams from all over the world fabricate vehicles in the hope that their designs will prove tough enough to endure the harsh conditions of the race environment, yet fast enough to beat the competitors; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee Tech University (TTU), which has competed in the Mini Baja Competition since 1978, will host the competition in May of 2008; and

WHEREAS, in preparation for the competition, university officials are making plans to build a track this summer on its campus behind the baseball and softball fields; and

WHEREAS, Mini Baja SAE consists of three regional competitions each year; each event can have up to 145 cars competing; and

WHEREAS, a historically strong contender in the Mini Baja Competition; the TTU team won the coveted Dayton Cup, in recognition of being the best team nationally, in 2002 and 2003; the university has garnered eleven first place finishes and more than twenty-one top five finishes in regional competitions; and

WHEREAS, the TTU students' admirable record in competition parallels their equally admirable reputation as a team that is courteous, knowledgeable, responsible, and helpful to others; and

WHEREAS, competitors have gained invaluable lessons from the racing sport; they must learn to function as a team, generate financial support for their project, and manage their educational priorities; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Tech University students, who are usually working toward degrees in engineering or manufacturing technology, are able to apply the theories learned in the classroom to a real world project, as they design and build a prototype of a rugged, single seat, off-road recreational vehicle intended for sale to the non-professional, weekend off-road enthusiast; and

WHEREAS, the vehicle must be safe, easily transported, easily maintained, and fun to drive; it should also be able to negotiate rough terrain in all types of weather without damage; and

WHEREAS, the TTU Mini Baja team's dedication to excellence is clearly deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend the students of Tennessee Tech University's Mini Baja team on their outstanding achievements in the Mini Baja competitions, commend them for successfully applying the concepts learned in class to the real world, and congratulate them upon being chosen to host the 2008 Mini Baja Competition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.